

621—7.6(20) Impasse procedures after completion deadline.

7.6(1) *Objections.* Any objection by a party to the conduct of fact-finding or arbitration proceedings which will not be completed by the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures shall be filed with the board and served upon the other party. Such filing and service shall take place no later than 20 days prior to the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures, 10 days after the effective date of the appointment of the mediator, or 10 days after the filing with the board of a request for arbitration, whichever occurs later. For purposes of this rule, a request for arbitration which is filed prior to the applicable filing period specified in subrule 7.5(1) shall be deemed filed on the first day of that filing period. Failure to file an objection in a timely manner may constitute waiver of such objection, in which case the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures shall not apply.

7.6(2) *Response to objection.* The nonobjecting party may, within 10 days following the filing of an objection with the board, file a response asserting that, because of deliberate delay on the part of the objecting party, or unavoidable casualty, misfortune or other events beyond the parties' control, impasse procedures should continue beyond the applicable deadline. A response may additionally or alternatively assert that the deadline relied upon by the objecting party is inapplicable for reasons set forth in the response, or may assert other reasons why impasse procedures should not be terminated. If a response is not filed within the time allowed by this subrule, the board may issue an order terminating further impasse procedures.

7.6(3) *Procedure.* Filing of an objection before the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures shall not affect the obligation of each party to continue the impasse procedures. Further, the board may postpone hearing on the objection if it determines that a fact finder's recommendation or arbitration award may be rendered on or before the applicable deadline; in making that determination, the board will attempt to expedite any remaining impasse proceedings, but no party shall be required to waive or shorten any mandatory statutory time periods which apply to that party.

7.6(4) *Hearings.* Insofar as is applicable, hearings on a party's objection shall be conducted pursuant to 621—Chapter 2. The nonobjecting party shall proceed first and shall have the burden to show that fact-finding or arbitration should not be terminated. The board shall then issue a final order that further impasse procedures should be either terminated or completed.